

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANA 03037 070605Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 SY-05 ISO-00 FBOE-00 A-01 /017 W

-----021742 070606Z /10

R 061300Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2002

UNCLAS SANA 3037

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, ASEC, YE

SUBJECT: MARINE CORPS HOUSES

REF: STATE 177868

1. EMBASSY MOST APPRECIATIVE OF FAST APPROVAL FOR NEW MSG HOUSE. OUR LEASE ON FORMER MSG HOUSE IS PAID UP THROUGH OCTOBER 14, 197-\* AND EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO USE HOUSE AS TEST CASE OF RENT LAW. EMBASSY HAS BEEN ADVISED BY LEGAL COUNSELLOR TO THE PRESIDENT THAT WE MAY HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF RETAINING THE HOUSE UNDER PRESENT LEASE DESPITE CHALLENGE OF LANDLORD. ACCORDING LEGAL COUNSELLOR, NEW RENT LAW (WHICH POST HAS FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON) HAS BEEN SUSPENDED BUT IS NEVERTHELESS TO BE USED BY NEW SET OF RENT COUNCILS IN EACH GOVERNORATE IN CONJUNCTION WITH UNDISCLOSED "GUIDELINES" TO SETTLE RENT DISPUTES SUCH AS OUR OWN. LEGAL COUNSELLOR WENT ON TO SAY THAT APPEAL FROM RENT COUNCILS IS TO HIM AND MINISTRY OF INTERIOR.

2. WHILE COUNSELLOR WOULD NOT DIVULGE TERMS OF GUIDELINES, HE DID SAY THAT HE MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR OWNER OF NEEDED PROPERTY (OR HIS SON) TO EVICT TENANTS IF OWNER (OR SON) WERE GOING TO LIVE IN HOUSE HIMSELF. FURTHER CONDITION IS THAT EVICTION OCCUR ONLY AT END OF LEASE, WHICH IN OUR PARTICULAR CASE HAS SEVERAL MORE YEARS TO RUN.

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PAGE 02 SANA 03037 070605Z

3. DEPARTMENT IS AWARE IN THIS CASE REMOVAL OF MARINES WAS NOT PRIMARILY DUE TO CHALLENGE BY LANDLORD BUT DUE TO REACTION IN CROWDED AND CONSERVATIVE NEIGHBORHOOD TO ALLEGED MISBEHAVIOR ON PART OF MARINES. EMBASSY HAD INTENDED TO FIGHT LEASE CHALLENGE RIGHT UP TO THE BITTER END.

4. NOW THAT MARINES HAVE BEEN SETTLED IN PROPER HOUSE,

EMBASSY WILL DETERMINE WHETHER AID OR OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY  
WOULD WANT HOUSE AFTER 14 OCTOBER. EMBASSY COULD, OF  
COURSE, USE IT AS WAREHOUSE IF NECESSARY SINCE IT IS NEAR  
EXISTING COMPOUND. IN ANY CASE, TO INDICATE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY  
DEPTH OF OUR CONCERN ABOUT VALIDITY OF SIGNED LEASES, WE  
INTEND TO USE PERIOD UP TO 14 OCTOBER TO PRESS OUR SUIT AND  
HAVE ALREADY SENT NOTE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT WE INTEND TO  
RAISE MATTER TO RENT COUNCIL IF LANDLORD, NOW IN CAIRO, DOES NOT  
AGREE TO CONTINUATION OF OUR LEASE.

5. POST EXPECTS TO BE ABLE TO INFORM DEPARTMENT WITHIN WEEK  
OF AID OR PEACE CORPS INTEREST IN THIS HOUSE.  
RANSOM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009